(a) whether there is inordinate delay in implementing India's first greenfield, corporate, joint sector airport of international standard at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to hasten the process of implementation of the Bangalore International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The development, construction, operation and maintenance of the new international airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore are carried out by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), a special purpose vehicle incorporated under the Companies Act. BIAL has executed all major agreements in connection with this project. BIAL has already achieved the Financial Close on 23rd June, 2005. The new airport is expected to be operational within 33 months from the date of Financial Close.

Pending tourism projects of NER

*310. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various tourism projects for the development of tourism in NER pending with Government;

(b) the details of proposals and the reasons for pendency project-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government to clear the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of Tourism is the responsiblity of the State Governments/UTs. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for the tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the State Governments.

Projects which are identified for development are required to be submitted in prescribed format, which has already been circulated to all

the States and UTs. All projects submitted by the North Eastern States during 2004-05, that were complete in all respect have been sanctioned.

A Statement showing amount sanctioned for various projects for development of tourism under circuits/Destination Development during last three years to the North Eastern States is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Amount Sanctioned		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Assam	721.30	313.46	821.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.30	1044.60	1285.70
3.	Mizoram	141.16	567.70	1086.35
4.	Meghalaya	70.35	40.22	963.30
5.	Manipur	05.25	82.44	75.50
6.	Nagaland	310.50	711.00	2165.69
7.	Tripura	171.21	400.17	—
8.	Sikkim	346.24	1151.09	580.81
	Total	1807.30	4310.68	6979.10

Appointment of private agency for PR work in Air India

*311. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to appoint a private agency to manage its public relation work;

(b) if so, details thereof and the reasons for appointing a private agency in this regard; and

(c) what is the practice prevalent in other PSUs under the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) While the Public Relations Department of Air India would continue to handle the function of media relations, two agencies have been short-listed based on technical bids to supplement the efforts of the Department. The main activities proposed to be assigned to the agency include media monitoring, image audit, providing communication counsel and advice on an ongoing basis, assist and develop effective channels of communications to consumers, employees, trade and other partners and other related activities.